

**CLAIMS AMENDMENTS**

Please cancel Claims 2, 85-87, 104, 107-109, 116, 117, 123, 130, 131, and 138-148, without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method of modulating splice site selection and splicing thereof, said method comprising the step of hybridizing an oligonucleotide-~~protein conjugate~~ to a target pre-mRNA molecule in a cell or cell extract, wherein said oligonucleotide-~~protein conjugate~~ comprises ~~an oligonucleotide~~ a moiety capable of binding to a protein moiety, ~~and which~~ comprises at least two distinct sequence elements:
  - (i) a nucleic acid sequence that is complementary to a specific region upstream of said splice site in said target pre-mRNA molecule; and
  - (ii) an extension containing a protein binding site sequence element for ~~covalently~~ binding a protein moiety; andwherein said protein moiety comprises a protein capable of modulating splicing of said splice site upon binding with said protein binding site.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said modulating is one of increasing or repressing splice site selection and splicing thereof.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said splice site is a 5' splice site.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said splice site is a 3' splice site.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said cell is a mammalian cell.
7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said cell is in a patient.

8-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said oligonucleotide moiety is ~~having~~ has the nucleotide a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO :12, ~~SEQ ID NO:2 to SEQ ID NO:14 and SEQ ID NO:18 to SEQ ID NO:33.~~

29-148. (Cancelled)